MADRAS WAR REVIEW

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DIARY OF THE WAR

31st Jan.—British troops advance along the the coastal road towards Appolonia. In the Sudan the advance continues and pressure is maintained against Agordat and Barentu. The Royal Air Force blast the way for the advance of Britain's Imperial Army of the Nile and raid Tripoli docks.

An important mountain peak known as 1960, originally organized as a defensive position by the Government of ex-King Jog of Albania, has been captured by the Greeks at the point of the bayonet. They have also captured the whole mountain range to the north of Klissura with peaks of six thousand feet. All enemy attempts to counter-attack have been repulsed with bloody losses.

The Armistice between Indo-China and Thailand is formally signed.

The success of the new Air Training Scheme for youths is indicated by the announcement of Air Commodore Chamier, Commandant of the Corps, that when the scheme formally comes into existence, 230 squadrons will be registered. They will include 200 squadron of the old Air Cadet Defence Corps. The number of boys who have already entered the scheme runs into thousands.

King of Italy appoints General Dallolio, a Minister of State.

General De Gaulle appeals to the French Army in Africa to re-enter the war and help the British.

It is announced that further provisions have been made for trial by military courts to be brought into operation by the direction of Mr. De Valera. These courts may consist of three Commissioned Officers, one member at least to have the rank of Commandant. They will have the power to impose the death penalty.

Mr. Matsuoka, Foreign Minister in his evidence given before a Sub-Committee of the Lower House stated that Japan had abandoned her policy of not dealing with the Chungking Government while recognizing Wang Ching-wei's Nanking regime in China. Japan was seeking with Mr. Wang Ching-wei an amalgamation of the two regimes in China. He added that Mr. Wang Ching-wei was ready to accept even death if only Chungking would reflect on its mistakes and make peace with Japan.

Touring the bombed areas of Portsmouth Mr. Winston Churchill remarked that the spirit of Britain glowed warmer and brighter for the tribulations through which they have passed.

British trawlers, "*Charmouth*" and "*Rattray*" shoot down a Nazi bomber when Nazi aircraft attempted to bomb them.

Nuisance raids over Britain. Three London hospitals hit. A few patients received minor injuries. Elsewhere little damage was done and there were very few casualties.

The Rumanian Government are preparing a law permitting the militarization of all Ministries. A further law annuls ill-forced sales of property of Jews made before September 6th. Such property is to be returned to its original owners and a special committee, it is reported, will examine each case.

1st Feb.—Contact with the enemy west of Derna is maintained and pressure on the Italian forces holding the area of Barentu is intensified. Agordat falls.

Hitler's reply to Marshal Petain reiterates the demand for active collaboration with Germany, a change in the French Cabinet and reintroduction of politicians prepared to work with Germany and the necessity of France to co-operate in the strategic situation in the Mediterranean.

Mr. Sol Bloom, Chairman of the House of Representatives Foreign Relations Committee, assures Lord Halifax that the Lease and Lend Bill will be passed by the House without a major change.

The Netherlands Government reject any suggestion of having the Netherlands Indies incorporated in a "New Order" in East Asia under the leadership of any power whatsoever.

Labour service for boys in Japan. Ten million Japanese students (boys and girls) are to be conscripted.

Royal Air Force bomb Boulogne, Ostend and Brest and also Valona.

Colonel Donavan, President Roosevelt's special representative arrives in Turkey.

The Iron Guard Youth Association has been dissolved and Rumanian boys and girls are to be reorganized on the model of the Hitler youth. A workers' organization is also being formed which will include all Rumanian workers.

Franco-German relations appear to be moving swiftly to a new climax. The formation in Paris, under the leadership of known pro-Nazi Frenchmen, of a 'National Popular Party' with a full Nazi domestic and social programme is announced. Its foreign programme includes the reconstruction of Europe and the exploitation of Africa by European and Franco-German co-operations.

In a broadcast to North African French subjects General Weygand denounces persons spreading rumours and appeals to all to maintain the utmost confidence in Marshal Petain.

2nd Feb.—British Forces capture Barentu. In Abyssinia the enemy retreats on the Metemma Gondar Road.

R.A.F. make daylight raids over occupied France.

Enemy air activity over Britain. Few bombs dropped on an East Anglian town without causing any casualties.

Two Italian transport ships have been sunk by an unidentified submarine near the Jugoslav island of Vis in the Central Adriatic.

3rd Feb.—Driving west along the coast from Derna the British forces capture the port of Cyrene. In Abyssinia the British have advanced towards Gondar 90 miles from the Sudan frontier. R.A.F. bomb Berka ærodrome and railway station at Barce. Castle Benito, an important Italian base in Tripoli was heavily bombed.

Mopping up operations in the mountains north of Klissura have been completed. The last vestiges of Italian resistance were eliminated without any serious effort. The Greeks now dominate the 6,000-foot mountain range of Trebeshini, the strategic key to the whole of Southern Albania.

Admiral Darlan leaves Vichy for Paris.

It is reported that about 700 Polish priests have been shot in Nazi concentration camps at Oranienburg, Dachan, Oswiecin and Buchwald. There are estimated to be 3,000 Polish priests at present in German concentration camps.

Mr. Ohashi, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, declared that the Japanese Government had nothing to do with the observations of the Netherlands Government which had removed its seat to London. He further declared that common prosperity, as advocated by Japan, concerned only economic affairs and had no political significance and therefore the Batavia parleys between Japan and the Netherlands East Indies will be continued.

R.A.F. raid docks at Brest, and other targets in occupied France.

Enemy raiders bomb several places in Londan, East Anglia and Kent. Some damage was done and a small number of people killed. An enemy bomber was shot down.

Referring to the hundreds of people with whom he had spoken Mr. Wendell Willkie said: "the people's spirit is magnificent. I do not believe that any nation in the world is more united in a cause than the people of the British Isles."

5,000 people have been arrested in Rumania following a comb-out by the Police after the recent Iron Guard revolt.

The Lease and Lend Bill comes up for discussion in the House of Representatives.

4th Feb.—British Imperial troops advancing from Kenya have penetrated sixty miles into Mussolini's East African Empire. Congolese troops leave for the front in Africa. South African Air Force bomb aircraft grounded at Afmadu in Italian Somaliland and Gobwen in Kenya. Bomber aircraft of the Royal Air Force raid Barce, Berka, Benina and Benghazi.

Big fires in Tepelini indicate that the Italians are preparing to leave it.

Japanese Government are considering invoking belligerent rights to prevent foreign assistance being given to the regime of Marshal Chiang Kai Shek. Mr. Matsuoka, the Japanese Foreign Minister, in reply to an interpellation before the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives, said that the United States of America had misunderstood Japan's intentions and strength but he would redouble his efforts to make them understand, that the Three-Power Pact represented a peace pact aimed at preventing an extension of the war. He wanted to make clear to the Americans that Japan did not want to risk war for the sake of her aspirations.

M. Bagrianoff, the Bulgarian Minister of Agriculture known for his Nazi sympathies, resigns. King Boris accepts the resignation and the post has been taken over by M. Filoff, the Prime Minister.

Mr. Eden, Foreign Secretary, while defining Britain's aims in helping Haile Selassie said that the British Government would welcome the reappearance of the independent Ethiopian State. He also added that the conduct of military operations in parts of Abyssinia will require temporary measures of military guidance and control. These will be carried out in consultation with the Emperor and will be brought to an end as soon as the situation permits.

British Trawlers, Relonzo and Luda Lady are sunk.

Convoys, aerodromes and towns in South-east and East England were the main objectives of German hit-and-run raids, during which four enemy planes were destroyed.

Enemy planes fly over Malta but no bombs have been dropped.

Prince Voravan, principal delegate for Thailand, leaves for Tokyo for peace negotiations.

Threats are issued to the Vichy Government through German controlled radio to concede to Nazi pressure. But Marshal Petain sticks to the Armistice terms and he is not prepared to collaborate with Germany except within this frame work.

Admiral Darlan returns to Vichy and confers with Marshal Petain. M. Paul Baudoin, who was Marshal Petain's first Foreign Minister and afterwards Secretary of State to the Prime Minister, is reported to have been given a new post—the presidency of the Administrative Council of the Bank of Indo-China.

Royal Air Force carry out attacks on objectives in Western Germany and occupied France. Dusseldorf, Cherbourg, ports at Brest, Dunkirk, Dieppe, and ærodromes at Vannes have been bombed.

Royal Air Force night patrols destroy one German bomber during raids over Britain which, while more widespread than for some time, were nowhere heavy.

Royal Air Force in the middle east make a heavy air attack on Maritza in Rhodes, the chief island of the Italian Dodecanese.

5th Feb.—Urged by the British Imperial Troops the Italians in Libya withdraw towards Benghazi. In Abyssinia the British advance eastwards on the Gondar road is progressing.

After fierce attack the Greeks capture important height on the central (Klissura) front and take many prisoners. Greek long-range guns near Pogradetz blow up an Italian munitions dump near Lin on the shores of Lake Ochrida.

Hitler has informed Vichy that a complete and radical solution of the Franco-German problem must be found and put into effect before February. German demands appear to be in the nature of an ultimatum.

French Cabinet meets. Admiral Darlan reports on his conversation in Paris. M. Laval, it is reported, demands the post of the Minister of the Interior with "far-reaching powers".

Mr. Wendell Wilkie's tour in England is ended. Referring to the general conclusions that he had reached in travelling about England, Mr. Wilkie said: "I think that the people of these islands are almost miraculously fortunate in their leaderships. Anyone who believes that the people are not united is labouring under a delusion. I doubt whether in history any man has been more ideally suited to his task than Mr. Churchill—with his qualities of inspiring leadership, great comprehension dauntless courage and long experience."

The Royal Air Force maintain activity over the English Channel. British bombers attack aerodrome at St. Omer. Two enemy aircraft were shot down and five British fighters are missing. Ports in occupied France and Belgium suffered severe hammering. British lost seven planes. Four German planes were brought down.

Air raid over England. Bombs were dropped at a point in North-east Scotland and Kent without any damage or casualty. German bombers attack a convoy off the south-east coast of England. Four enemy bombers have been shot down.

An enemy dive-bomber was shot down by the trawler Lady Philomena during an attack on a British convoy. His Majesty's trawler Tourmaline, one of the escorting vessels, was sunk.

Two thousand British subjects are still living at liberty in Paris. They are able to obtain from the United States Embassy sufficient cash up to £10 per month enabling them to obtain modest board and lodging.

6th Feb.—The British five-front offensive in Africa is progressing favourably everywhere. In Libya the British Imperial Forces capture Benghazi. In Eritrea British forces are now closing in on Italian positions about Keran. Further south Italian forces which had withdrawn eastwards from Barentu are being vigorously pressed in Tole area. So far about 1,500 prisoners have been taken. In Abyssinia good progress is made along the Gondar road in spite of numerous mine fields set up by the enemy to cover his retreat. In Italian Somaliland British penetration in all sectors is daily becoming deeper.

Fierce fighting occur west of Moskopolis in the Ostravitza region. Patrols were active at the source of the Skumbi river. A violent Italian counter-attack on the central front ended in a disastrous Italian defeat. On a mountain range beyond Klissura the Greek forces are now consolidating their recent gains and organizing new positions.

Mr. John Winant has been nominated the United States Ambassador to London.

Their Majesties the King and Queen spoke to many men and women in Portsmouth who had stood up to the bombing.

In moving new credits totalling 1,600 million sterling to tide the country over until April the next Budget period, Sir Kingsley Wood, Chancellor of the Exchequer, gave arresting statistics relating to war-time expenditure. The total national expenditure on all purposes now averages $12\frac{1}{4}$ million sterling daily.

The Government of Eire is arranging for voluntary evacuation of children from Dublin city and Kingston borough in the event of a situation arising which would render such a course advisable.

WAR IN THE AIR

The following are the details of the British raids from home bases on enemy territory in Europe, ascertained by competent authorities for the week ending 28th January 1941:—

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
January 22, Wednesday.	R.A.F. day fighter raids on troops, motor transport, aerodromes and ground defences between straits of Dover and River Somme; shipping in Channel. R. A. F. night bomber raids on Dusseldorf and other Ruhr areas; two aerodromes in occupied territory.	1	Unspecified number of aircraft destroyed on ground.
January 23, Thursday.	Bombing operations cancelled owing to weather.		
January 24, Friday.	R.A.F. night bomber raids on submarine base at *L'Orient. Main operations cancelled owing to weather.	..	..
January 25, Saturday.	(No reports.)		
January 26, Sunday.	R.A.F. night bomber raids on industrial targets in Hanover.	Nil.	..
January 27, Monday.	(No reports.)		
January 28, Tuesday.	Bombing operations cancelled owing to weather.		

The following are the figures of losses of aircraft due to enemy air raids on Britain, ascertained by competent authorities for the week ending 28th January 1941:—

Date.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
January 22	Nil.	2
January 23	..	..
January 24	1 (forced landing in Eire.)	..
January 25	..	..
January 26	..	4
January 27	..	1
January 28	..	..

TALKING POINTS

THE WEEK

From Great Britain, America, Canada and Australia significant statements were made in the course of this week by persons in authority about a move in Europe on the part of Hitler designed to strike at Great Britain. It is with a view to enable him to do so that he is bringing pressure to bear upon Marshal Petain to include Laval in the Cabinet so that, through him, Germany can take control of the French fleet and the French Naval bases on both sides of the Mediterranean. Significant threats have been uttered over the German and German-controlled radio to the Vichy Government, which is still disinclined to depart from the Armistice terms. It is generally expected that the tension in the Franco-German relations is reaching a critical stage. In the meanwhile, Hitler's efforts to help his junior partner, Mussolini, appear to meet with grave obstacles. In Eritrea, Agordat and Barentu have been captured by the British and Indian troops, while the retreating Italian army is being pursued relentlessly further east. In Abyssinia, the British advance eastwards on the Gondar road is progressing and in Southern Abyssinia, the British penetration is continuing. Steady pressure is being brought to bear on Italians in Somaliland, while in Libya, British forces proceeding past Cyrene pursuing the Italian forces have captured Benghazi, a remarkably swift operation, planned by Wavell, the Wizard and carried out to the astonishment and of the world. The Royal Air Force and the South African Air Force have been of great and valuable help in these operations. Italy is fairing equally badly in Greece, where the Greeks have captured important mountain peaks in Central Albania and the coastal areas. Counter attacks of the Italians have been smashed. Valona, according to observers, is reduced to ruins and it is reported that Italians are preparing to leave Tepeleni. Hitler, in the face of these severe blows to his ally, is hard put to it to discover some means whereby he can help him. Diplomatic pressure on Bulgaria, it is stated, is being increased to join the Axis. These and other developments in Europe have been closely studied by Mr. Wendell Wilkie, the Republican candidate for the Presidency, who has returned to America after a ten days' hurricane tour of England and after a visit to Eire to Mr. De Valera. Important developments are expected from this visit.

STATEMENTS ABOUT THE COMING CRISIS

There is a good deal of speculation in the whole world as to what Hitler intends to do next. Col. Frank Knox expects a strong move and that too very early, Germany using gas and a new type of planes. "Can we act in time", he said to the Committee considering the "Aid to Britain Bill" and he confessed that he was tremendously worried. "British authorities", said Sir Edward Peacock, British Treasury Expert now in America, "expect an invasion within sixty days". Everybody is agreed that Hitler will act in the near future throwing in everything in a desperate gamble. Conditions, in the words of Lord Halifax, "make it necessary for Hitler to have a go at it soon." The stage is set, as a commentator has put it; and the actors are ready. When will the screen go up? Will it go up at all?

POSSIBLE MOVES

There are three possible methods of directly attacking Great Britain, by invasion, by attacking industrial centres by air and by destroying mercantile marine by submarine and by aircraft. There are reports of concentration of numerous divisions on the French and Belgian coasts. Barges and several kinds of naval craft are reported to be ready. There are, further, troop carrying planes and parachutists. As against this threat, it may be mentioned that there are now four million men under arms in Great Britain and the serious losses sustained in France have been more than replaced. The R.A.F. may not enjoy numerical superiority to the German aircraft at present, but it has been greatly increased and its quality has been amply proved to be very much superior to Germany's. Civilian morale is high and Britishers have been made the more determined by the ferocious and indiscriminate bombing. A.R.P. defence in all its phases has been considerably improved and purely military defence has perfected its measures. Mr. Edward Murrow, commentator of the American Columbia Broadcasting System, stated on the 20th January that, although there was no room for complacency, all plans of defence have been carefully drawn up. "I know that the British army is working on the assumption," he stated, "that the attempt will be made and I know too that the elements of surprise will not be monopolised by the invading forces, for there are surprises awaiting them, on, around and behind those beaches". So far as submarine attack is concerned, the average weekly losses have come down very much and it is expected that by bombing of the submarine bases and in other ways this menace will be effectively met.

Hitler, of course, wants very much to attack Great Britain in the Mediterranean and in North Africa. That is why, by alternate threats and soft words, he is trying to get round Marshal Petain. The situation is one of great difficulty for that French leader. It is possible that he may include M. Laval in the Cabinet or, as has been suggested, appoint him and three other people to form a directorate under himself (Marshal Petain). So far as is known, he may do this because it is the lesser of two evils. The French Minister of the Navy has more than once declared that the French Navy and the French ports will remain French and that any aggression will be resisted. Further General Weygand, who is in North Africa, has significantly asked all Frenchmen to support Marshal Petain and stated that Bizerta will not be surrendered. Hitler is of course in

a difficult situation. He can overrun Southern France rapidly and take possession of the French ports, but that does not mean that the French fleet will fall into his hands and Bizerta may be defended by General Weygand. Meanwhile, there are threats from German radio that unless France agrees to collaboration, which of course means absolute surrender, Germany will have to stiffen her attitude much to France's disadvantage. Bizerta, which is on the northernmost point of the African continent and about 150 miles from Sicily, would of course be the centre of operations for Germany. Bizerta is part of a demilitarised zone and it would be a hazardous enterprise for the Germans to take it. There is one circumstance which should be borne in mind as regards the Vichy Government's attitude. That Government continues to abuse Britain, and the Vichy Press is hostile. This may either be to placate Germany or it may be genuine, but there is no denying the fact that Marshal Petain wants to strictly adhere to the Armistice terms and go no further.

Hitler's attempt to make Sicily the base for attack on the Mediterranean has not been successful. While on this subject it may be mentioned that Great Britain and America between themselves command important straits and narrow waters all over the world—the English Channel, the Sound (with its by-pass the Kiel Canal), the numerous entrances in the Caribbean Sea, the Panama Canal, the Straits of Malacca, the Torres Straits, the Gulf of Oman, the Suez Canal, the long passage of the Bosphorus and the Aegean, the Straits of Otranto, of Messina and between Sicily and Cape Bon and Gibraltar. There are also mouths of the Black Sea, the Adriatic and the central passage of the Mediterranean, but they are subordinate to the mouths of the Mediterranean. It must be remembered that the R.A.F. and the Fleet Air Arm have been busy over Sicily and though the danger of dive bombers is serious British naval supremacy in the Mediterranean is assured.

The other mode of attacking Great Britain is by fomenting trouble in the Balkans and reducing Bulgaria to the status of Rumania. Constant pressure is being applied on Bulgaria with what results it is not known. Bulgaria has to choose between joining the Axis and entering into a defensive pact with Russia. If she chooses the first course, then there is the danger of Turkey attacking her and that cannot be comfortable to Hitler.

MR. WENDELL WILKIE AND AMERICAN ATTITUDE

During his rapid tour of the devastated towns and areas in Great Britain during the ten days Mr. Wendell Wilkie has been in the British Isles, he has seen many things for himself and talked to persons high and low. He has paid glowing tributes to the magnificent spirit of the people and to the great recuperative power of the Britishers. 'I personally hope,' he said on one occasion, 'that America will give you such aid, with such steadfastness and courage that you will shortly win through.' The importance of the visit should not be under-estimated. He will give valuable evidence before the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, and can further educate the American people on the conditions in Europe to-day and by other ways help the cause of the Allies. He is a Republican and his views will be respected by his party, reducing the opposition which may otherwise be made to the Aid to Britain Bill. He has seen Mr. De Valera who, he said, has cleared up some points. The rseults of his visit, he has kept to himself but it may not be long before he makes them public in America. His message to the German people broadcast after his departure from England is a characteristic one. Himself a German (his name is Willicke) he has condemned the methods of the present German Government and appealed for the enthronement of freedom, individual liberty and human rights.

ABYSSINIA.

Emperor Haile Selassie re-entered Abyssinia on January 15 last, being escorted thereto by Royal Air Force bombers accompanied by fighter aircraft. During the last few months Abyssinian patriots have been helped by secret British military officers who have trained them and supplied them with arms and ammunition. About one-fourth of Abyssinia, roughly speaking, is now in the hands of the British and the Abyssinian patriots. In an important statement made on Tuesday last Mr. Anthony Eden, Foreign Secretary, who, it will be remembered, fought in 1935 in favour of oil sanctions against Italy, told the House of Commons that the British Government will welcome the re-appearance of the independent Ethiopian State and recognize the Emperor's claim to the throne. "Great Britain had no territorial aims in Abyssinia," he continued, but the conduct of military operations will require military guidance and control in consulation with the Emperor. Such guidance and control will be brought to an end as soon as hostilities cease and assistance and guidance in economic and political matters will be subject to international arrangements at the conclusion of peace. This declaration of British policy will be welcomed throughout the world, especially by those who felt that Abyssinia had not had a square deal by the States who were members of the League of Nations in those troubulous years. There is plenty of evidence to show that Italy had concentrated large forces in Eritrea and other places for an attack on Abyssinia early in 1934. The Wal Wal incident was only a pretext of which Mussolini took full advantage in order to execute his designs upon Ethiopia. Abyssinia was ill-equipped, had no planes or mechanised forces. Guerilla warfare, though successful up to a point, was unable to resist the devastation by bombing. No wonder Abyssinia was conquered especially because the Abyssinians were subjected to gas attack. The mustard gas spread from the wings of aeroplanes on the troops below turned the scales. It was shocking tactics and a bestial mode of attack. So long

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JAPAN

Japanese statemen find that India is quite ill-informed about the developments in Japan and are anxious that the Indian masses should be given some enlightenment on this subject. A spate of Japanese propaganda may therefore soon be expected in this country. This is hardly necessary as the people of India are well aware of the trend of Japanese policy and of its ambitions to dictate to other countries in the Far East and bring them within its orbit.

Japan's real intentions in regard to her aggressive policy in the Far East are attempted to be hidden in cloud of words. A few dates stand out prominently with regard to her foreign policy. The first is 1922 when the Washington Conference solemnly declared that China's territorial and administrative integrity should be preserved. Subsequent agreements put the Open Door principle into the form of a treaty. The tide of world sympathy for China ran high in those years and whatever Japan's motives might have been in regard to this foreign intervention, she behaved then as one who was inclined to observe the principles laid down in 1922. But the political ambitions of Japan found strong spokesmen in military circles and five years later Baron Tanaka, Premier of Japan, presented a memorial to the Emperor of Japan regarding the positive policy which should be followed. The following passages from the memorial which have been unearthed by a Calcutta paper are very apposite to the present situation :—

> "For the sake of self protection as well as the protection of others, Japan cannot remove the difficulties in Eastern Asia unless she adopts a policy of 'Blood and Iron'. But in carrying out this policy we have to face the United States which has been turned against us by China's policy of fighting poison with poison. In the future, if we want to control China, we must first crush the United States just as in the past we had to fight in the Russo-Japanese War. But in order to conquer China we must first conquer Manchuria and Mongolia. In order to conquer the world, we must first conquer China. If we succeed in conquering China, the rest of the Asiatic countries and the South Sea countries will fear us and surrender to us. Then the world will realize that Eastern Asia is ours and will not dare to violate our rights. This is the plan left to us by Emperor Meiji, the success of which is essential to our national existence.
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> "After studying the present conditions and possibilities of our country, our best policy lies in the direction of taking positive steps to secure rights and privileges in Manchuria and Mongolia. These will enable us to develop our trade. This will not only forestall China's own industrial development but also prevent the penetration of European Powers. This is the best policy possible. The way to gain actual rights in Manchuria and Mongolia is to use this region as a base and under pretence of trade and commerce penetrate the rest of China. Armed by the rights already secured we shall seize the resources all over the country. Having China's entire resources at our disposal we shall proceed to conquer India, South Seas Archipelago, Asia Minor, Central Asia and even Europe . . . If we pursue a positive policy to enlarge our rights in Manchuria and China, all these pre-requisites of a powerful nation will constitute no problem."

As Japan was inclined to implement this policy disputes arose between China and Japan regarding Manchuria which really constituted, as many political observers have stated, the starting point of the troubles which culminated in the present war. Manchuria was naturally considered by China as its granary and its first line of defence, but Japan, for various reasons, claimed a special position in Manchuria, a claim which conflicted with the sovereign rights of China and was irreconcilable with the aspirations of the national Government which had been asking for the curtailment of exceptional rights and privileges of foreign states throughout the country. The dispute between China and Japan, which culminated in the events in Manchuria in the second half of 1931 have been set out at great length in the Lytton Report. China has never reconciled herself to the loss of Manchuria or to the formation of the state of Manchukuo. The presentation of further demands by Japan brought about the China affair; a state of hostilities between Japan and China, which commenced in 1937, still continues and the end of which no one can foresee at present.

Japan appealed the other day to Great Britain, Russia and America not to help China. But Great Britain has reopened the Burma Road and the steady flow of supplies is speeded up along that road. China and Russia have entered into a barter agreement and Russia does not seem inclined to accept Japan's advice to stop her help to China. The United States of America has advanced a large loan to China and has promised her further help. These circumstances, coupled with the fact that the progress of the China affair is not satisfactory, has made Japan extremely nervous and irritable. On the debit side, there is an ominously mounting list of items. The withdrawal from Nanking and South East China has appreciably reduced Japanese prestige. The Chungking Government is as strong as ever, in spite of the recognition of Mr. Wang Ching Wei's Government at Nanking. The Japanese have now been forced to be on the defensive both at Ichang on the Yangtse river and in the north near Peiping. Japan has lost a million soldiers, while Chiang Kai Shek has 2,000,000 troops and 200 æroplanes. Again the Japanese move in Southern Honan aimed at pulling off 100,000 Chinese troops has ignominously failed. She has further lost all hope of trade with the United States and the British blockade has reduced her trade with other parts of the world. It is stated that prices have risen up by 50 per cent since July 1937.

The cost of the war with China appears to have mounted to 17,500 million Yen. The situation so far as Japan is concerned is, therefore, one of great complexity and difficulty. The other day, Mr. Matsuoka, Foreign Minister, stated that Japan had abandoned her policy of not dealing with the Chungking Government while recognizing Wang Ching Wei's regime, a significant statement by itself. He further pointed out that Wang Ching Wei would die or go into exile if only Chunking would reflect on its mistake and make peace with Japan. This seeming descent from the high horse involving a reversal of policy has not impressed Chiang-Kai-Sheik who is as determined as ever to drive the aggressor out of his country.

One should have thought that, with the China affair on her hands, Japan would be reluctant to arrogate herself the role of the maker of the new order in the Far East and dispenser of justice. Power has poisoned her and if she entered into the Tripartite Pact with Italy and Germany it was because she thought that the fall of the British Commonwealth of Nations, especially after the down-fall of France, was quite near and certain. Great Britain, which was at first inclined to follow a policy of appeasement and gave Japan some time to think over the whole matter, has now stiffened her attitude and re-opened the Burma Road. America is adamant and insists upon Japan maintaining the *status quo* in the Far East. The answer on the part of Japan to this very specific demand consists in her playing a game of bluster and retreat. Mr. Matsuoka at one time expressed his inability to make the United States understand that Japan must dominate the Far East for the sake of humanity. He asked America to have a more realistic appreciation of the situation. Japan, he further pointed out, did not seek leadership of East Asia in the role of conqueror. She wanted to enable each nation to take its proper place. He added that "this great ideal which inspired the founding of our empire should be applicable not only to Greater East Asia but eventually to the entire world. The Pact with Germany and Italy represented the embodiment of this ideal." That simply means that just as Hitler wants to swallow the whole of Europe and advance into South America after destroying the British Commonwealth of Nations, so Japan wants to swallow China, dominate Indo-China, the Netherlands, East Indies and imperil the position of India and Australia. At first Mr. Matsuoka stated that Japan was inclined not to court America, but proceed by unshakable resolve, a statement which was later expanded by Admiral Koshiro Oikawa who said that the Navy was prepared for any eventuality, that nothing desirable was left undone towards meeting the worst, and that Japan was bent upon safeguarding her sense of parity. Finding that this threat did not make any impression upon America Mr. Matsuoka stated the other day that Japan did not want to risk war for the sake of her aspirations and would redouble her efforts to make the United States understand that the Tripartite Pact aimed at preventing an extension of war. America's reaction to threats and cajolery can be found in her increasing her naval and air strength on the Pacific. She wants that the *status quo* should be maintained and one may depend upon it that she will not countenance any move on the part of Japan which is likely to disturb the present situation.

That situation deeply affects the Netherlands East Indies. Trade negotiations between Japan and that country are proceeding and she has already secured a deal so far as oil is concerned. But the Dutch Government would be no party to further penetration by Japan. This was made very clear by the Netherlands East Indies rejecting any suggestion of being a party to her incorporation in the New Order in the Far East. It can never be expected, it was officially stated, that she would be guided by the spirit of such conception. It would appear that the Japanese Government have rejected these representations and it stated that common prosperity concerned only economic affairs and had no political significance. But the Dutch Government have stated very categorically that the whole difficulty lay with Japan and that she will be no party in a Government vesting exclusive rights to any one power. The Commonwealth Air Minister stated only the other day that Australia was fully prepared to discharge her responsibilities and make herself safe, especially because a powerful country in the Pacific had joined in a military alliance with the enemy. Any doubt which might have been created as regards the attitude of Australia following the statement made sometime ago by one of her statesmen that the relations between Australia and Japan were very cordial, has been removed by the statement made in the House of Commons the other day, that Australia is fully agreed with the policy of Great Britain in regard to Japan's aggressive policy.

REVOLUTION BY AGREEMENT.

"A revolution is transforming our economic and social life, which promises far to surpass in its effects the industrial revolution, and which, with the guidance that British political genius is capable of giving it, may place this country in the proud position of leading the world in social progress........

"The trend is visible across the entire length and breadth of the British Home Front. For instance, tremendous strides are being made to raise nutrition standards and the general welfare of the millions of working people in Great Britain. The problem of distribution is being boldly tackled; the British Government, in co-operation with the Dominions, is buying up the entire production, in different parts of the world, of key commodities which, thrown upon the open market, would cause economic and financial chaos at this time. Profits are being controlled on an unprecedented scale and the power of money, in the hands of the private individual is rigidly curtailed. Domestic production and distribution, as well as the supply of essential raw materials, are subject to State regulation, based on the war time needs of the community". *King-Hall News-Letter, 3rd October 1940.*

THE ABYSSINIAN CALENDAR

1906, DEC. 13.—London Agreement between Great Briitain, France and Italy guaranteeing the integrity and independence of Abyssinia and establishing spheres of influence in that country.

1923 . Abyssinia enters the League of Nations, especially with the support of Italy and France, the British delegate expressing doubts whether this was proper because slavery had not been abolished. Abyssinia undertook to end slave trade and slavery.

1925, DEC. 14 TO 20.—Great Britain and Italy exchange notes regarding a concession for a barrage on Lake Tana in return for certain facilities to Italy for building a railway from Eritrea to Italian Somaliland and exclusive economic interest in West Ethiopia.

1926, JUNE 19.—Ethiopian protest to the League against the Italo-British Agreement.

1928, AUG. 2.—Italy concluded with Abyssinia a treaty of amity and conciliation, agreeing to submit disputes to conciliation and arbitration.

1934, DEC. 5—An engagement took place at Wal Wal between Italian and Ethiopian troops followed by other incidents.

1935, JAN. 3.—Ethiopia appeals to the League to settle the frontier dispute with Italy.

1935, MARCH 17.—Ethiopia complains to the League about Italian mobilization and despatch of troops and war material to the Italian colonies in East Africa.

1935, APR. 15.—Ethiopia and Italy agree to appoint two arbitrators each to settle the dispute.

1935, MAY 10.—A telegram from the Ethiopian Emperor to the League denouncing Italian preparations which he reported had begun as early as September 1934.

1935, AUG. 3.—A fifth arbitrator appointed in the person of M. Nicolas Politis.

1935, SEPT. 3.—Arbitral award, to the effect that Italian agents were not responsible for Wal Wal incident and that Ethiopia was not responsible either. The incidents were thus settled.

1935, SEP. 4.—Report to the League of the meeting of the representatives of Great Britain, France and Italy to settle outstanding disputes. Italy rejects the proposal of collective assistance to Ethiopia to carry out certain reforms.

The Italian representative presents a memorandum stating that "Italy's dignity as a civilized nation would be deeply wounded were she to continue a discussion in the League on a footing of equality with Ethiopia". Ethiopia did not satisfy certain fundamental conditions—"it must have a stable government, an effective political and administrative organization and well-defined frontiers". The Ethiopian representative expressed his surprise at this indictment and asked: "The question is whether, in a few days, 'war of extermination will be opened.'"

(Italy, it may be noted, supported Ethiopia's entry into the League.)

1935, SEP. 5.—Ethiopia requests for the application of Article 15 of the Covenant.

1935, SEP. 18.—Committee of five appointed by the Council reported on the desirability of international assistance to Ethiopia and recognition of the independence and integrity of Ethiopia. Ethiopia accepts, while Italy rejects this solution.

1935, SEP. 29.—Emperor of Abyssinia orders general mobilisation after reporting to the League the previous day about the despatch of Italian reinforcements and other preparations.

1935, OCT. 2.—The Emperor of Ethiopia reports to the Council that Italian troops had violated the frontier in the region south of Mount Mussa Alli, Italy replying the next day that no frontier had been delimited and that no military movement had taken place.

Italian mobilization.

1935, OCT. 3.—Italy declares war on Abyssinia. Adowa and Adigrat bombed. Italy informs Council that she had found itself obliged to take the necessary measures of defence.

1935, OCT. 6.—Adowa captured.

1935, OCT. 7 TO 9.—League Assembly and League Council declare Italy the aggressor.

1935, OCT. 11 TO 19.—League Committee adopts proposals for sanctions against Italy.

1935, NOV. 2.—League decides to enforce sanctions on Nov. 18.

1935, NOV. 11.—Italy protests against sanctions.

1935, NOV. 16.—General de Bono recalled and Marshal Badoglio appointed Commander-in-Chief.

1935, NOV. 18.—Sanctions against Italy come into force.

1935, NOV. 30.—Italy notifies that she would consider oil sanction as an "unfriendly act."

1935, DEC. 6.—The open town of Dessil bombed by Italians.

1935, DEC. 9.—Hoare-Laval Plan published. (This plan, negotiated in Paris by Sir Samuel Hoare and M. Laval offered

Italy a large slice of Abyssinia and economic control over a very large area, in return for cessation of hostilities. This was rejected by both Italy and Abyssinia and was repudiated by the British Cabinet as a result of which Sir Samuel Hoare resigned, his place of Foreign Secretary being taken by Anthony Eden. This publication imperilled American co-operation in oil sanctions.)

1935, DEC. 19.—League Council rejects the Hoare-Laval Plan.

1936, JAN. 12.—General Graziani begins offensive in South Abyssinia.

1936, FEB. 12.—Technical Committee appointed by the League Council reports that Italy had stocks of oil which would make oil embargo ineffective for three to four months and a half and that U.S.A. co-operation was an essential requisite.

1936, FEB. 16 TO 19.—Abyssinians defeated at Enderta. Amba Aradam captured.

1936, FEB. 28.—Amba Alaji falls.

1936, MAR. 2.—Ras Kassa defeated in the Tembien.

1936, MARCH 10.—Oil sanction proposals finally given up following the furore caused by the German occupation of the Rhineland.

1936, MAR. 29.—Italians advance on all fronts.

1936, APR. 1.—The Emperor's army sustains a crushing blow at Kworam. A few days later the Emperor escapes to Djibouti and thence to Palestine.

1936, APR. 28.—A plaintive appeal for help by the Emperor.

1936, MAY. 5.—Italian occupation of Addis Ababa and end of the Italo-Ethiopian conflict.

1936. MAY 15.—Italy notifies the powers of the annexation of Abyssinia followed a few days later by the creation of an Italian Empire.

1936, JUNE 1.—Mussolini issues a proclamation forming an Italian East African Empire under a Governor-General, with Adids Ababa as capital. The five subsidiary governments are to be Eritrea, Somaliland, Amhara, Galla and Sidamo and Harar. Plans published for the emigration of 4 to 5 millions to Abyssinia in ten years.

1936, JUNE 30.—Emperor finally appeals to the League.

MYOPIA IN EIRE

If one can understand the disinclination of the Free State to permit the presence of Southern Ireland of British troops, it is more difficult to comprehend the shortsightedness of the leaders of Eire in refusing bases on the western coast to the British Admiralty. No one will maintain, on the basis of the historical record, that the activities of the British in Ireland have invariably been motivated by a disinterested paternalism. Yet the most elementary logic argues that as between Britain and Germany, Eire can have but one choice if she sincerely desires survival of her peresent independence. Furthermore, it may also be argued with reason that if she does not soon make the choice of intelligence and self-interest, she may not have the opportunity of making any decision. The Nazis' U-boat campaign is accelerating; and in some weeks, recently, British freighter losses have exceeded those at the peak of the submarine warfare in the last war. Eire is by no means self-sufficient; she cannot survive, any more than can Northern Ireland, without her imports and re-imports from England. Recent days have disclosed that once again the Germans are concentrating their U-boat and raider campaign in mid-Atlantic, and between 100 and 500 miles west of the Irish coast. The danger to Eire is even greater than the menace to Britain, for the latter at least has weapons to continue the war, and Southern Ireland has none—save the indomitable spirit of her people, unfortunately no longer a highly effective weapon in this era of mechanisation.

As Mr. Churchill explained last month in the House of Commons, the British Navy needs bases closer than its own ports to the Atlantic areas where the Nazis are lying in wait for British convoys.

Eire could not be in a more exposed and defenceless position. If Mr. De Valera does not soon persuade his people that the crassest self-interest, at this time, demand that the British Navy be given access to whatever Southern Ireland bases the Admiralty deems vital (primarily Queenstown, Berehaven and Loughswilly), the time may not be distant when the British may be forced to pre-empt them. For the future relations between Southern Ireland and Britain, such an act of force would be calamitous. It must be plain to leaders of Eire, if the cables are to be believed, that the British Government is ready to give Southern Ireland whatever guarantees it can —paper guarantees, that is true. Nevertheless, as between such guarantees, and the imminent threat of literal starvation and a Nazi invasion, horse sense would dictate Eire's immediate offer of these bases to Britain—*The Living Age.*

TALKING POINTS

(*Continued from Page* 6)

as it was effective in subjugating Abyssinia, Mussolini did not care to examine its humanity. The reconquest of Abyssinia for the Emperor Haile Selassie must be a matter of difficulty and take some time, but all right-minded people would welcome him back to the throne. A diary of the events relating to Abyssinia in the years 1935–36 will be found elsewhere.

MISLEADING STATEMENTS IN ENEMY BROADCASTS

BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH

Mediterranean Muddle

While the Italian raido is at last admitting to its own people that the African situation is becoming increasingly serious, its Berlin counterpart still tells the outside world that General Wavell's Libyan victories do not matter at all, and that the real issue will be decided nearer Britain. In this latter contention, Nazi propagandists are merely echoing (without acknowledgment) Mr. Churchill and the other British leaders, but Berlin's attempts to minimize Italy's progressive loss of Libyan territory and bases do not square with earlier Fascist boasts that the Libyan coast was nothing less than Italy's "fourth shore".

Thus the Nazi commentator, Scrutator, inquires with heavy sarcasm (January 22): "What is the difference whether Australian infantry and tanks are camping out in the Egyptian desert or in the sand-hills round Sidi Barrani and Tobruk?". Scrutator would like the world to forget that Sidi Barrani is the point from which a great Axis drive to the Suez Canal was to have begun—but didn't—and Tobruk (like Bardia, that "bastion of Fascism itself") was until recently a strong Italian fort and naval base. Moreover, it matters very much to the Axis that 100,000 Italian soldiers should no longer be in Sidi Barrani or Tobruk, but in Egyptian and Indian concentration-camps.

Explaining Defeat

Axis comments on Italy's retreat in the more southerly African sector are equally inept. Thus the Berlin wireless, on January 23, quotes the diplomatic correspondent of the Italian Stefani agency as explaining that Kassala was "voluntarily evacuated by the Italians in order to enable them to prepare more successfully the line of defence which has been chosen by the Italian High Command".

As the Italians are still in full flight through Eritrea, the inference is that their High Command has not yet had time to choose this more successful line of defence.

Labour in Britain—

Lord Haw-Haw gets more and more infuriated as he realizes how firm is the determination of the British working man to defeat Hitler and his evil tribe. Naturally, Haw-Haw's spite vents itself especially upon such great workers' leaders as Mr. Ernest Bevin, who as Minister of Labour is playing an increasing part in Britain's war against Hitlerism.

On January 22, he accuses Mr. Bevin of trying to imitate National Socialism by the introduction into Britain of certain measures of labour compulsion—naively adding, however, that "it would be quite inaccurate to say that there has been compulsion of labour in German." Haw-Haw goes on to admit that German labour has been thoroughly controlled from the outset of the war, "but with the fullest regard for the rights and privileges of the workers."

—in Germany

Just what results Hitler's hounding of German workers has achieved are best told, not by opponents of his regime who have escaped from Germany, but in the cautious words of one of his own high Nazi officials, the president of the Reich Health Administration, who wrote in 1939:

"The extensive introduction of working shifts and the loosening up of the system of safeguarding labour hours through overtime and Sunday work in many enterprises are creating conditions prejudicial to the health of the workers. . . We already hear from the medical profession expressions of concern regarding the decline in health conditions, and the frequent occurrence of general nervous disturbances or of disorders of the digestive system. They raise the question whether the demands being made on the human working capacity have not in some cases exceeded the permissible limit."

So much for Hitler's "fullest regard for the rights and privileges of the workers." And here is a footnote to this inside exposure of German labour conditions; it is a sentence from the *Monthly Bulletin of the National Socialist Party*, volume 4, part 13, 1939, and it reads: "A model factory in the central German industrial area organizes for work a number of men who, already in their 75th year, are still capable of productive labour."

—and in Holland

Berlin on January 21 says that, on a tour of inspection in Holland, "a German official was told by numerous managers of Dutch factories that work was so abundant that there was no unemployment at all."

The Nazi "New Order" in Holland is based on the deindustrialisation of the country and the deportation of labour to Germany.

Unemployed workers in Holland have the option of being deprived of their ration cards and unemployment relief money, or going to work in Germany.

Already more than 30,000 Dutch workers have accepted deportation to the Reich under this starvation threat.

Maritime Make-Believe

We are informed by Rome (January 22nd) that "according to statistics compiled by experts", Britain has lost 16 light and heavy cruisers since the beginning of the war. "Twelve of these cruisers have been destroyed by the Germans and four by the Italians", says Rome modestly.

The experts remain unidentified; and the only thing at which they can justly claim to be expert is the art of make-believe.

By the end of August, 1940, these same Axis experts had already "sunk" 83 British cruisers, although that figure represented 135 per cent of our existing cruiser strength!

Admiralty communiques have reported all British naval losses as they have occurred. So far, enemy action has resulted in the loss of four cruisers and eleven armed auxiliary cruisers. The distinction is marked. Whereas

naval cruisers are designed specifically as warships, armed auxiliary cruisers are converted merchant ships. In peace-time they carry passengers and freight and have neither armour-plate nor guns, while in wartime they are fitted with a few four-inch guns and used as convoy escort vessels to relieve the over-worked destroyer fleet. By contrast, vessels in a class with the *Southampton* (one of the four naval cruisers sunk) carry 40 guns, 6 torpedo tubes and 3 aircraft, as well as 4-inch armour plate on their hulls.

The former passenger liners *Rawalpindi*, *Jervis Bay* and *Carnarvon Castle*, are among the armed auxiliary cruisers which have distinguished themselves in action against German warships.

Guilty Conscience?

Still trying to prove that the Royal Air Force, not the *Luftwaffe*, introduced the policy of indiscriminate bombing, the Nazi radio reports in both Hindustani and English the " discovery " in Poland of secret documents of the French High Command.

One of the documents, purporting to be a French general's description of German air raids on Poland, says: " German planes attacked only military objectives and did not even touch civilians' houses."

Broadcasting at the time of the capitulation of the city, the Mayor of Warsaw declared that only the fact that every one of the 50 hospitals in the capital had been destroyed, that fires were raging throughout the city and that, owing to the destruction of sewers and water mains, serious epidemics threatened, had induced the authorities to surrender.

The Berlin correspondent of the Danish paper *Politiken*, who arrived in Warsaw shortly afterwards, reported that there were fires everywhere, all the railway stations were destroyed, all Government buildings were in ruins.

In Praga, the working-class quarter of the city, not one stone stood upon another.

Off the Target

" Britain ", says Berlin (January 26), " has failed to find any effective defence against air attacks on her industrial centres."

Ben Robertson, London correspondent of the New York paper *P.M.*, declared, on his return to America last week, that German bombers had done comparatively little damage to British industry.

" The Coventry story ", he said, " was censored, but not because of the amount of damage. It was censored because of the *lack* of damage. Coventry was in need of a breathing spell. The British knew that, if they told the world that the factories were still running, the Germans would probably come over again at once and have another try.........

" They have since damaged shopping districts in Birmingham, Manchester, Bristol, Cardiff and Southampton, but British factories are safe in more secure suburbs."

BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES

German Distortions

On January 22, the Nazi radio gave in Hindustani an absurdly garbled version of Lord Chatfield's broadcast of the previous day. This is what Lord Chatfield was made to say: " Were it possible for aerial warfare to decide the war, then taking into consideration past events it would be very difficult for the British Empire to survive.".

The following, however, is what he actually said: " The outstanding lesson of this war is that ships can still command the sea, and in my opinion they will ever do so, for fundamental reasons.........Our Empire is a sound affair, and it is not going to perish from air attacks so long as its sons remain true to the type of those who created it."

The Italian radio is seldom willing to be outdone by its Nazi counterpart. In its Arabic broadcast of January 22, Lord Chatfield is further " quoted " as saying that the *Southampton* was the first big naval unit sunk by the enemy. Actually, he had said that the *Southampton* was the first large ship sunk as the result of an air attack since the war started.

Germans on Freedom of the Press

On January 24, the Berlin radio sanctimoniously announced that the suppression of the London newspaper *Daily Worker* constituted " a violation of the democratic principle of the Freedom of the Press." It is something new for the Nazis to lament an assault on democratic principles, for the freedom of the press ended in Germany when Hitler came to power.

In " Mein Kamp," the Fuehrer had something to say about the Marxist Press, a category which includes the *Daily Worker*. He wrote: " To them the spreading of falsehood is as much a vital necessity as the mouse is to a cat. Their sole task is to break the national backbone of the people."

The British attitude on this question was elucidated by the Socialist leader Mr. Herbert Morrison, who, when addressing the House of Commons on January 22, said that it was his firm conviction that the freedom of the Press should be maintained even at the risk that it might sometimes be abused. But there was a wide difference between accepting such occasional risks and allowing continuous publication of newspapers whose deliberate purpose was to weaken the will of the people to achieve victory. Before the Government took action there had been a long period of forbearance.

Nazi reactions to Britain's dwindling shipping-losses

On January 20, the German radio notes Sir Arthur Salter's candid statement to the effect that Britain's average weekly shipping losses since June 1940 have been 90,000 tons, and goes on to state that the actual shipping losses have been three times as much. This is a typical Nazi generalization—meaningless and impossible to prove.

It is also an indication of their chagrin at the substantial drop in shipping losses during the weeks ending December 30, 1940, and January 5 and January 12, 1941, when they amounted to only 18,208 tons, 14,687 tons and 30,226 tons respectively.

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Director of Information, Madras.]

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